

Message Text

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65

ACTION H-03

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----- 063468

R 191554Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2657

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS LUSAKA 0132

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AREP (BOWEN, DAVID), AO, ZA

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN BOWEN'S STATEMENT TO LUSAKA PRESS ON ANGOLA

1. REP DAVID BOWEN OF MISSISSIPPI TRANSITTED LUSAKA JAN 17.
CODEL INTERVIEWED AT LUSAKA AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL BY TIMES OF
ZAMBIA REPORTER. INTERVIEW FEATURED ITEM IN JANUARY 18
SUNDAY TIMES OF ZAMBIA. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE FNLA, UNITA GIVEN AMERICAN AID VOW...AN AMERICAN
CONGRESSMAN PLEDGED IN LUSAKA YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD TAKE AN
ACTIVE PART IN PERSUADING THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TO
INCREASE MILITARY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE FNLA AND
UNITA.

MR. DAVID BOWEN, DEMOCRATIC CONGRESSMAN FOR MISSISSIPPI
SAID DURING A STOPOVER FROM SOUTH AFRICA ON HIS WAY BACK HOME
THAT THE FNLA AND UNITA BADLY NEEDED THIS ASSISTANCE TO
COUNTERACT THE SOVIET-BACKED MPLA.

DESPITE THE DECISION BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (SIC)
TO CUT DOWN AID TO THE TWO MOVEMENTS, THERE WAS STILL A BIG NEED
TO EQUIP THEM WITH THE NECESSARY WEAPONS.

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"CONGRESS SHOULD THEREFORE CONTINUE ITS POLICY ON ANGOLA AND EVEN STEP UP FINANCIAL AND MILITARY AID," HE ADDED.
"IN THIS VIEW, I WILL TAKE AN ACTIVE PART TO SEE THAT THIS IS DONE. CONGRESS WILL BE ADDRESSED BY PRESIDENT FORD ON MONDAY AND I AM RUSHING BACK HOME TO ENSURE THAT THE DECISION TO CUT THIS AID IS REVERSED," HE SAID.

MR. BOWEN SAID AS LONG AS THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS WERE IN ANGOLA WITH MORE SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS, AMERICA SHOULD ENSURE THAT THE OTHER TWO MOVEMENTS WERE SUPPLIED WITH BETTER ARMS.

AFTER VIETNAM, IT WAS ACCEPTABLE FOR AMERICANS TO FEAR THAT THEY MIGHT BE HEAVILY INVOLVED AGAIN IN ANGOLA "BUT THIS WAS UNAVOIDABLE NOW," HE SAID.

WHILE IN ZAIRE, HE TALKED TO UNITA LEADER JONAS SAVIMBI AND FNLA'S HOLDEN ROBERTO AND THEY BOTH TOLD THE CONGRESSMAN THAT THEY WERE BADLY IN NEED OF WEAPONS, HE CLAIMED.

"I AM CONVINCED THAT THESE TWO BADLY NEED FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, AND WE ARE THE ONLY NATION TO MATCH THE KIND OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE MPLA BY THE RUSSIANS AND CUBANS."

MR. BOWEN ALSO SAID THAT THE US HAD NO RIGHT TO INTERFERE IN ANGOLA, BUT SINCE IT HAD ALREADY DONE SO, THERE WAS NO GOING BACK.

IT WAS NOT THE AMERICANS TO BLAME FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAR WHICH STARTED FROM AN INTERNAL ONE INTO AN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR.

"WHEN WE SAW THE SITUATION DETERIORATE, WE NATURALLY HAD TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE OTHER TWO MOVEMENTS," HE SAID.

MR. BOWEN ALSO SAID THE FAILURE OF THE OAU TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM WAS A PARTIAL VICTORY FOR THE FNLA, UNITA AND THEIR SUPPORTERS BECAUSE THE MPLA WAS NOT RECOGNIZED AS THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY.

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HE AGREED THAT THE BEST SOLUTION WOULD BE FOR THE SUPER-POWERS TO WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA AND CLAIMED THAT EVERYONE ELSE WAS WILLING TO DO SO APART FROM THE SOVIET UNION.

HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE FREE ELECTIONS CONDUCTED IN ANGOLA AND CLAIMED THAT DR. SAVIMBI AND MR. ROBERTO WERE PREPARED FOR THIS EXCEPT MPLA LEADER AGOSTINHO NETO.

MR. BOWEN PRAISED PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S LEADERSHIP, HIS
STAND ON ANGOLA AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND SAID
AMERICANS ADMIRE HIS LEADERSHIP." END QUOTE.

3. CLIPPINGS OF SUNDAY TIMES ITEM, WHICH INCLUDES PHOTO
OF CODEL BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT (H) FOR FORWARDING TO
REP BOWEN. WILKOWSKI

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NNN

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